

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 /060 W

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R 231711Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1061

SECDEF

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

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DEFENSE FOR DIA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, HU' UK

SUJ: HUNGARIAN ATTACHES DETAINED BY BRITISH POLICE

1. MEDIA, ESPECIALLY TABLOID PRESS, ARE HAVING A FIELD DAY WITH NEWS ITEM REPORTING DETENTION OF TWO HUNGARIAN DIPLOMATS BY BRITISH POLICE IN BERKSHIRE. CONSERVATIVE MPS EXPECT TO TABLE QUESTIONS IN HOUSE OF COMMONS FOR PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLING FOR EXPLUSION OF ATTACHES AND INSTITUTION OF TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ON IRON CURTAIN DIPLOMATS.

2. FCO, HOWEVER, IS TAKING A MORE TEMPERED VIEW PENDING RECEIPT OF OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION. ACCORDING TO FCO OFFICIALS ONLY KNOWN OFFENSE OF DIPLOMATS WAS BREAKING SPEED LIMIT IN EFFORT TO AVOID DETENTION BY POLICE.

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ATTACHES WERE NOT OBSERVED BREAKING ANY OTHER LAWS AND

THEIR "SURVEILLANCE" OF MILITARY INSTALLATIONS, INCLUDING A ROYAL ORDNANCE FACTORY, WAS DONE ENTIRELY FROM PUBLIC LANDS.

3. AFTER TWO ATTACHES HAD BEEN STOPPED BY POLICE, THEY WERE IDENTIFIED IN POLICE STATION AND CLAIMED DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY. THEY WERE THEN RELEASED. ATTACHES ARE ASSISTANT MILITARY ATTACHE LT.COL. LAJOS HAJMA, AND CAPTAIN ANDRAS TOTH. (FYI: HAJMA IS REPORTEDLY WITHIN THREE MONTHS OF ROTATION DATE. END FYI.)

4. FCO DOES NOT YET SEE GROUNDS FOR PNG ACTION OR FOR INSTITUTION OF TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS, BOTH OF WHICH WOULD ENTAIL RECIPROCAL ACTION ON BRITISH ATTACHES IN BUDAPEST. FCO EXPECTS MAXIMUM RESPONSE MAY BE OFFICIAL PROTEST TO HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR, BUT HAS NOT YET DECIDED EVEN ON THAT. FCO ESTIMATES CRITICAL PUBLICITY MAY BE RETALIATION ENOUGH AND FCO AWARE OF POSSIBILITY HUNGARIANS MAY RECALL BOTH HAJMA AND TOTH TO AVOID DIFFICULTY.

ARMSTRONG

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Message Attributes

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